THE

Preſent State

OF THE

REPUBLICK

OF

LETTERS.

Giving a General VIEW of the State of Learning throughout EUROPE; and containing not only an early Account, but accurate Abſtracts of the moſt valuable Books publiſhed in *Great Britain* or Foreign Parts.

Interſperſed with Diſſertations on ſeveral curious and entertaining Subjects; miſcellaneous Reflections on AUTHORS; and hiſtorical Memoirs of the Lives of the moſt eminent WRITERS in all Branches of polite Literature.

For *May*, 1736.

VOL. XVII.

LONDON:

Printed for W. INNYS and R. MANBY, at the Weſt End of St. *Paul*'s. MDCCXXXVI.

Price One Shilling.

BOOKS printed for W. INNYS *and* R. MANBY.

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ARTICLE XXV.

A Miscellany *of* Mathematicks. In two Parts. By Richard Locke. London: *Printed and ſold by Meſſ.* Innys *and* Manby, *at the Corner of St.* Paul's Church-Yard; *Mr.* Lewis *by* Covent Garden; *and Mr.* Meighan *in* Drury-Lane. 1736. *Small* Octavo *ſtitch'd. Pag.* 155, *beſides a Preface and Copper Plates.*

THIS Book, of no great Bulk, coſt the laborious Author, as he himſelf tells the World, ſeven Years Study and Obſervation to compoſe and finiſh it. He wrote it, he ſays, neither for Ambition or Intereſt; and he could have wrote it in *Latin*, but he preferr'd his own Country Language, that every one might be capable of examining it. The greateſt Recompence he can expect, or ſeems to deſire for his Toil, is, the Readers Prayers for his Soul: The Salvation of which he knows to be of infinite Conſequence, and purſues aſſiduouſly.

Amongſt other Things, this Piece contains a Demonſtration of the Squaring the Circle: The

Author challenges all the World to confute it; and if it is true that the *Dutch* have offer'd 10000 *l.* for the doing of this Feat, he hopes they will either pay the Money, or get ſome one to prove that he has not done it. The *Dutch* are good honeſt People, and this fortunate Projector will therefore undoubtedly be a 10000*l.* Man very ſhortly; *i. e.* as ſoon as he has made out his Claim and the Money can be remitted.

The Work conſiſts of two Parts: In the firſt are twelve Chapters. One lays down ſeveral Aſtronomical Definitions; the next treats of ſquaring the Circle; the third is employed in Reflections on the Anomalies; the fourth propoſes a general Scheme for Dialing; the fifth explains the mechanical Powers; the ſixth diſcourſes of the Diviſion of a Monachord; the ſeventh ſpeaks of Refractions; the eighth of converging Rays; the ninth of ſquaring the Ellipſis; the tenth draws ſome Reflections from the Properties of the Circle and Ellipſis; the eleventh ſhews further the Uſefulneſs of the Ellipſis; and the laſt is about doubling the Cube.

In the laſt Chapter but one, our Author handles ſeveral curious Points relating to Time, Space, Eternity, the Exiſtence and Attributes of God, the Truth of the Goſpel, *&c.* which the Reader would hardly expect to have ſeen deduc'd from the Properties of the Ellipſis. Under ſome other of the Chapters, divers Errors are animadverted on, and rectify'd; if the Corrector himſelf does not happen to be miſtaken: I don't know that it is of much Conſequence to ſpecify any of them; I proceed therefore to the ſecond Part, which is divided into the ſame Number of Chapters as the foregoing.

The

The Author here treats firſt of Trigonometry in general; and lays down an eaſy Method *to calculate Triangles by the Proportion of the Sides to the Angles.* And thus he ſays any Caſe in Trigonometry may be reſolv'd much more expeditiouſly and truly than by Sines and Tangents; for theſe are found out, as he adds, by their Squares, beſides the many Errors that may be committed in making and printing ſuch large Tables: I ſuppoſe he means of Sines and Tangents. In the ſecond, third, fourth, and fifth Chapters, the Author gives the Solution of the uſual Caſes in plain and ſpherical Triangles; in the ſixth he begins the Application of Trigonometry to Navigation.

The ſeventh Chapter directs to find the Longitude by the *Courſe*; the eighth ſhews how to find it by Obſervation; the ninth is a Diſcourſe on the Correction of Time; the tenth inſtructs the Mariner to make Obſervations of the Longitude; in the eleventh we are taught to find the Moon's Place, and furniſhed with Tables for that Purpoſe; and the twelfth, which cloſes the whole, is taken up for the moſt part with ſhort Tables of the Sun and Moon's mean Motions.

ARTICLE XXVI.

State of Learning.

ZURICH.

MESſ. *Conr. Orell* and Comp. have juſt publiſhed *Theſaurus Hiſtoriæ Helveticæ, continens lectiſſimos Scriptores qui per varias Ætates reipublice*

publicæ Helveticæ *rationem, inſtituta, Mores, Diſciplinam, fata & res geſtas Sermone Latino explicarunt & illuſtrarunt: quorum Pars antehac editas; nunc vero ob raritatem recuſa, & ex ipſorum Auctorum Chirographis vel aucta, vel correcta; nonnulla nunc primum in lucem prodeunt, cum indice copioſo.* In Folio. Which contains *Johannis Vitodurani, Chronicon a Frederico* II. *Imp. ad Annum,* 1348. *procedens.* Pelius Maleoli, *vulgo* Hemmerlein *dialogus de ſuitenſium ortu, nomine, confæderatione, a quibuſdam (utinam bene!) geſtis. Hiſtoria belli* Suitenſis, *ſive* Helvetici, *duobus libris comprehenſa auctore* Bilibaldo Puickeimero. Henrici Lorti Glareani *deſcriptio* Helvetiæ *nec non Panegyricon* XIII. Helvetiæ *partium cum commentariis,* Oſwaldi Miconii Lucernani. Joſiæ Scinleri Valleſiæ Deſcriptio, *lib.* II. *& de Republica* Helvetiorum, *lib.* II. Franciſci Guillimanni Helvetia, *ſive de rebus* Helvetiorum, *lib.* V. *in quibus Gentis illius antiquitas, origo, mores, leges, uno verbo omnes belli paciſque artes hiſtorica fide ex antiquis tabulis atque monumentis eruuntur, & curioſo Lectore breviter exponuntur.* Fr. Guillimanni Hasburgiaca, *ſive de antiqua & vera origine Domus* Auſtriæ, *vita & rebus geſtis comitum* Vindoniſſenſium, *ſive* Altenburgienſium, *in primis* Habsburgiorum, *lib.* VII. *ad* Rudolfum, II. Habsburgi Auſtriacum, *Imperatorem ſemper Auguſtum.* Joan. Henrici Suiceri Rigurini, Chronologia Helvetica, *res geſtas* Helvetiorum *ad noſtra uſque tempora indicans ordine, & breviſſime complectens.* Peregrini Simplicii Amerini, *Bellum civile* Helveticum, *Anno Chriſti,* 1656. & John Bapt. Plautini Lauſannenſis, & *apud* Caſtrodunenſes, Helv. *V. D. ch.* Helvetia *antiqua & nova.*

They have alſo publiſhed *Joſiæ Simleri de Republica* Helvetiorum, *lib. duo; adjunctum eſt Compendium*

pendium Hiſtoriæ Helveticæ *antiquæ auctore* J. Conrado Fueſlino. *Qui etiam Hiſtoriam* Helvetiorum *ab auſpiciis reformatæ. Fidei ad hæc uſque tempora ex magni nominis Scriptoribus exoticis collegit; ſimul nonnullas in Civitatibus* Helveticis *mutationes factas paucis enarravit. Accedit Proc. Tumult.* Coſ. Waldmanni. In 8vo.

LEIPZIG.

JO. Frid. Gleditſch has lately publiſhed *Deſignatio Plantarum quas Hortus* Auguſt. Frederici Waltheri, *Pathologiæ Profeſſoris* Lipſienſis *complectitur, accedunt novæ Plantarum* Icones XXIV. In 8*vo.*

GOTTINGEN.

ABrah. Vandenhoeck, Printer to our New Univerſity, has publiſh'd a very neat Edition of *C. Plinii Cæcilii ſecundi Panegyricus, tum aliunde, tum ex obſervationibus Criti. Gottlib. Schwarzii emendatus ad* Jo. Matth. Geſnero, 8*vo.* M. *Geſner* has made himſelf known to the learned World, by his Additions to *Faber*'s Theſaurus; his *Chreſtomathia Græca*; and lately by his beautiful Edition of *Scriptores rei ruſticæ.*

HAMBURGH.

THE Widow *Felginer* has printed *Conſpectus ſuppellectilis Epiſtolicæ & Litterariæ manu exaratæ quæ extant apud* Jo. Chriſto. Wolfium. *Obſervationibus nonnullis & Epiſtolis nondum editis diſtinctus.* 8*vo.*

PARIS.

PARIS.

M. *Voltaire*'s celebrated Tragedy call'd *Alzire ou les Americains*, is at laſt publiſhed here, and has met with the ſame Applauſe as it receiv'd upon the Stage.

ERRATA in the *Republick* for *April.*

Page 267. lin. 23. *for* Claoke *read* Clarke.
Page 290. lin. 17. *for* Corpus *read* Compos.
Pag. 293. lin. 19. *after nominare licet*, &c. *add*, Moreover in ſome obſervations he made on a Letter of *Leibnitz*, which were printed at the end of *Raphſon*'s *Hiſtoria Fluxionum*, he declares, *That in a paper written by him ſo long ago as* 1665, *the direct method of Fluxions was ſet down in theſe words: An equation being given expreſſing the relation of two or more lines* x, y, z, &c. *deſcribed in the ſame time by two or more moving bodies* A, B, C, &c. *to find the relation of their velocities* p, q, r, &c. Pag. 303. lin. 12. *read* John Bernoulli. Pag. 322. lin. *penult*. *read* proportions. Pag. 325. lin. 4. *for* ultimate *read* prime. Lin. 8. *dele* other. Pag. 328. lin. 10. *read* doctrines. Pag. 331. lin. 14. *dele* comma after firſt. Pag. 334. lin. 6. a fine, *for* vaniſhing ones *read* varying ones.